



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R5-ES-2022-N063; FXES11130500000–201–FF05E00000]

### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of 5-Year Reviews of Two Northeastern Species

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation of reviews; request for information.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are initiating 5-year reviews under the Endangered Species Act, as amended, for two northeastern species. A 5-year review is based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review. We are requesting submission of any such information that has become available since the previous 5-year review for each species.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, please submit your written information by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**. However, we will continue to accept new information about any listed species at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** For instructions on how and where to submit information, see **Request for New Information** and **Table 2—Contacts** under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *General Information:* Martin Miller, by telephone at 413-253-8615, via email at [martin\\_miller@fws.gov](mailto:martin_miller@fws.gov), or via U.S. mail at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035.

*Species-Specific Information and Submission of Comments:* Contact the appropriate person or office listed in **Table 2—Contacts** in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are initiating 5-year reviews under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), for two northeastern species: the endangered Virginia big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus* (=Plecotus) *townsendii virginianus*) and Furbish's lousewort (*Pedicularis furbishiae*).

A 5-year review is based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review. We are requesting submission of any such information that has become available since the most recent status review for each species.

### **Why Do We Conduct 5-Year Reviews and Species Status Assessments?**

Under the ESA, we maintain Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (which we collectively refer to as the List) in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations at 50 CFR 17.11(h) (for wildlife) and 50 CFR 17.12(h) (for plants). Listed wildlife and plants can also be found at [https://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/pub/listedAnimals.jsp](https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/pub/listedAnimals.jsp) and [https://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/pub/listedPlants.jsp](https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/pub/listedPlants.jsp), respectively. Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the ESA requires us to review each listed species' status at least once every five years. Our regulations at 50 CFR 424.21 require that we publish a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing species under active review. For additional information about 5-year reviews, refer to our fact sheet at <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/recovery-overview.html>.

### **What Species Are Under Review?**

We are initiating 5-year status reviews of the species in table 1.

**TABLE 1—SPECIES UNDER REVIEW**

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Where listed</b>	<b>Listing date and citation</b>
Virginia big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus</i> (= <i>Plecotus</i> ) <i>townsendii</i> <i>virginianus</i>	Endangered	Wherever found	11/30/1979, 44 FR 69206 69208
Furbish's lousewort	<i>Pedicularis</i> <i>furbishiae</i>	Endangered	Wherever found	04/26/1978, 43 FR 17910 17916

### **What Information Do We Consider in Our 5-Year Reviews and Species Status**

#### **Assessments?**

A 5-year review considers all new information available at the time of the review. In conducting the review, we consider the best scientific and commercial data that have become available since the most recent status review. We are seeking new information specifically regarding:

- (1) Species biology, including but not limited to life-history and habitat requirements and impact tolerance thresholds;
- (2) Historical and current population conditions, including but not limited to population abundance, trends, distribution, demographics, and genetics;
- (3) Historical and current habitat conditions, including but not limited to amount, distribution, and suitability;
- (4) Historical and current threats, threat trends, and threat projections in relation to the five listing factors (as defined in section 4(a)(1) of the ESA);
- (5) Conservation measures for the species that have been implemented or are planned; and
- (6) Other new information, data, or corrections, including but not limited to taxonomic or nomenclatural changes, identification of erroneous information contained in the List, and improved analytical methods.

Any new information received will be considered during the 5-year review and will also be useful in evaluating ongoing recovery programs for the species.

### **Request for New Information**

To ensure that 5-year reviews are based on the best available scientific and commercial information, we request new information from all sources. If you submit information, please support it with documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, methods used to gather and analyze the data, and/or copies of any pertinent publications, reports, or letters by knowledgeable sources.

### **How Do I Ask Questions or Provide Information?**

Please submit your questions, comments, and materials to the appropriate contact in table 2, below.

### **Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your submission, you should be aware that your entire submission—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can request that personal information be withheld from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

### **Contacts**

New information on the species covered in this notice should be submitted by mail or electronic mail to the appropriate contact shown in table 2, by the deadline provided above in **DATES**.

**TABLE 2—CONTACTS**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Contact person, email</b>	<b>Contact address</b>
Virginia big-eared bat	Liz Stout <i>elizabeth_stout@fws.gov</i>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, West Virginia Field Office, 6263 Appalachian Highway, Davis, WV 26260

Furbish's lousewort	Hannah Mullally <i>hannah_mullally@fws.gov</i>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Field Office, 306 Hatchery Road, East Orland, ME 04431
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**Authority**

We publish this document under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

**Kyla Hastie,***Acting Regional Director,**Northeast Region.*

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